

Former Senator David Vitter here with a further important update regarding Libya.

The U.S- and U.N.-supported Libyan Government (or Government of National Accord, GNA) continues to score very important military victories against strongman Khalifa Haftar, pushing him further away from Tripoli. As a result, the GNA has been able to resume its focus and work with the American military against terrorist elements, including both ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Attached are three news reports which detail this.

The first is a Bloomberg piece which reports that GNA forces successfully struck Haftar's main forward airbase at Jufra, destroying a hangar, many drones, and an Ilysh 76 Russian-made transport plane Haftar had been using for key supply operations. This airbase had been the central staging grounds for Haftar's failed, unprovoked attack on the government and Tripoli. It has been reported separately that Haftar is using numerous Chinese drones in his assault.

The second brief article reports that U.S. Africom forces have returned to Libya to resume operations with the GNA against ISIS. They had temporarily relocated due to Haftar's attacks. The GNA has been a staunch and reliable U.S. ally in this fight against ISIS, but Haftar's attacks have threatened that work substantially.

The third press report, from the Agence France-Presse, details how forces aligned with the GNA captured several key Al Qaeda operatives in the Tripoli area.

I hope this new information is helpful. We would continue to urge leaders like yourself to support any measures or other activity in Congress that furthers the national unification peace process, to which the GNA is fully committed.

David

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## Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

### Tripoli Government Says It Struck Haftar's Main Forward Airbase

By Samer Khalil Al-Atrush | July 26, 2019 08:46AM ET | Bloomberg Government

Libya's internationally recognized government said it conducted air strikes for the first time against the main forward airbase for eastern-based strongman Khalifa Haftar, destroying a hangar containing drones and a Russian-made military transport plane.

The strike on the airbase in Jufra, Haftar's central Libyan staging ground for a three-month offensive on Tripoli, came days after the strongman's forces announced a renewed attempt to seize the capital in a battle that has stalled at the city's outskirts and drawn in increasing foreign intervention.

The strike on the Jufra airbase destroyed "a hangar containing drones and an Ilyushin 76 transport plane used to supply the armed groups," the GNA military statement said, referring to Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army.

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SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO LIBYA

## Bunyan Al-Marsous Operation's Spokesman: U.S. AFRICOM Troops Arrived in Misurata



Spokesman of Bunyan Al-Marsous Operation Mohammed Al-Ghasri affirmed that a group of the U.S. Africa Command's military reached the airbase in the coastal city of Misurata.

According to his statement, the US AF plane, that were carrying the U.S. AFRICOM troops, landed on last Saturday on the airbase of Misurata Air Force College.

*The tweet below confirmed that on July 21, the US AF C17-A Globemaster III (10-0222) call sign RCH157 departed from Aquaba airport, Jordan, heading for Misurata.*



**Sergio Scandura**

@scandura



Today in area



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Mohammed Al-Ghasri revealed that the American military arrived in Libya “in cooperation activities with the Government of National Accord’s Presidential Council headed by Fayeze Sarraj in the field of combating the ISIS in Libya”.

The U.S. AFRICOM mission has returned to Libya approximately three months after it announced on April 7 a temporary relocation of its forces due to “increased unrest” and in response to security conditions in the country.



**SMM Libya**  
@smmlibya

Footage showing the #US Africa Command's military gunboats evacuate a number of American nationals and security personnel from #Libya in the coastal village of Palm City in Janzour district, W of the capital #Tripoli.



63 5:29 AM - Apr 7, 2019

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The decision to withdraw the US troops from the North African country came shortly after the Libyan National Army Commander Khalifa Haftar ordered his army's forces to start a full-scale offensive to take over the capital Tripoli.

Following the announcement of the relocation, the U.S. Africa Command also stated that it would continue to monitor the situation on the ground, and assess the feasibility for renewed U.S. military presence.

Since the very beginning of the LNA's "Flood of Dignity" operation, the brigades and armed groups from Misurata city are deeply involved in the confrontation with the rival forces of Khalifa Haftar.

Meanwhile, the airbase of Misurata Air Force Academy, where the US AFRICOM officers have been deployed, constitutes one of two main airbase of the GNA Air Force carrying out combat missions against the LNA's positions in southern Tripoli and central Libya.

In late June, the Washington Post reported that revealed that a mercenary pilot flying for Misurata who was captured by (<https://smmlibya.wordpress.com/2019/05/07/khalifa-haftars-forces-claimed-to-have-shot-down-war-plane-and-capture-mercenary-pilot-fighting-for-tripolis-government/>)LNA (<https://smmlibya.wordpress.com/2019/05/07/khalifa-haftars-forces-claimed-to-have-shot-down-war-plane-and-capture-mercenary-pilot-fighting-for-tripolis-government/>) after his aircraft went down on early May near Tripoli appeared an American Air Force veteran, Jamie Sponaule.

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Posted on July 25, 2019 by smmlibya Tagged Libya, Misurata, US Africa Command, USA.

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# Libya militia says arrests Al-Qaeda leaders



AFP•July 25, 2019

Tripoli (AFP) - A Libyan militia has arrested a number of Al-Qaeda-linked jihadist leaders in a raid near the capital Tripoli, the group said.

The Misrata Joint Security Force carried out the raid against "wanted terrorists, classified as Al-Qaeda leaders", the group linked to the UN-recognised Government of National Accord's interior ministry said on Facebook late Wednesday.

The dawn operation "in a suburb of Tripoli" on Wednesday led to the arrest of individuals "linked to attacks launched in the capital", it said.

The main target, an Algerian national fighting under the name "Al-Chaoui", was rounded up along with several wanted Libyans, it added, without giving names or the total number arrested.

The force published a video of the raid, including footage of three people wearing blue uniforms with their hands bound.

It said it had also seized weapons, grenades, ammunition, documents and material used to produce explosives.

Libya has been gripped by chaos since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011.

Jihadists and people-traffickers have taken advantage of the unrest to gain a foothold in the North African country.

Rival administrations and multiple militias are now vying for power, with the Tripoli-based GNA that holds Libya's west at odds with a parallel administration based in the country's east and backed by strongman Khalifa Haftar.

Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army launched an offensive on April 4 to take the capital, but his fighters have faced stiff resistance from GNA forces, including the powerful Misrata militia.

At least 1,000 people have been killed in the battle for Tripoli, according to the World Health Organization.

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